The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comment and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and, carrying other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

Fight INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 14-31
The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

WHOLE NO. 1815 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 36, NO. 4

AFL Starts Twin Drive For Action To Meet Nation's Acute Housing Need

Washington, D. C.—A double-barreled drive to arouse public opinion for action to deal with the immediate housing emergency and for enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill to meet the nation's long-range housing needs was announced by AFL President William Green.

Mr. Green called upon AFL Central Labor Unions in 800 cities throughout the country to take the lead in organizing community campaigns for prompt construction of new homes to meet the acute shortages confronting returning veterans and war workers.

"Mobilization for more and better housing is the most vital step in America's mobilization for peace and recovery," Mr. Green said.

His action followed a White House conference with Federal Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt, at which Mr. Green was accompanied by the AFL Housing Committee.

"The American Federation of Labor stands ready to cooperate fully with Mr. Wyatt in the emergency program to meet the housing crisis which affects almost every American community today," Mr. Green said after the meeting. "We will support every sound measure to make the government's program effective.

"Foremost in labor's objectives in its fight to prevent the present housing shortage from developing a chronic, malignant disease is quick congressional enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill, S. 1592. It is the duty of every unionist and every responsible citizen to raise his voice and call upon Congress for urgent action on this vital legislation.

"The American Federation of Labor calls upon its Central Unions in more than 800 communities throughout the United States to form local labor housing committees. It will be the responsibility of these committees to work closely with mayors and other municipal authorities in making known the housing needs of the community and devising methods for meeting them promptly, soundly and effectively.

"Local AFL Housing Committees, guided by the National Housing Committee of the AFL, will launch a nationwide mobilization of labor and citizen cooperation to meet the housing emergency."

J. M. Gillespie, of Teamsters, Dies; Was Outstanding Union Officer

Indianapolis.—John M. Gillespie, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and one of the best-loved men in the labor movement, died here at the age of seventy-two after a long illness.

Mr. Gillespie had served the Teamsters' organization for almost half a century and had earned a reputation for square dealing and intelligent leadership throughout the trade union movement.

Teamster President Daniel J. Tobin, shocked at the passing of his close friend and associate, declared that Mr. Gillespie's efforts had helped to build the Teamsters Union into one of the most powerful organizations in the nation.

"He was one of the best-liked men I ever knew," said Mr. Tobin. "We started out together as business agents for the same local union in Boston and when I became president of the international, I brought him along with me as my assistant.

"He was an able negotiator and a faithful union official. He was always so friendly and genial that even when he disagreed with you the worst of the argument he didn't bear any unkindly feelings toward 'Gil.' I have never heard anyone say an unkind word about him."

The tribute from Mr. Tobin was echoed by other leading officers of the American Federation of Labor gathered in Miami for the AFL Executive Council meeting.

AFL President William Green, who had come into frequent contact with Mr. Gillespie at conventions and council meetings, declared that the labor movement as a whole, including the Teamsters Union, would mourn his loss.

At the turn of the century, Mr. Gillespie was employed as the driver of a horse truck in Boston. He joined the Teamsters local immediately and became active in its affairs. A tall, strapping young man with a persuasive manner and a gift for leadership, he impressed his fellow workers to such an extent that they chose him as one of the union's business agents.

In those days budding unions encountered rough sailing and vicious opposition, but Mr. Gillespie soon demonstrated he could hold up his own end against any company.

His talents and abilities were so marked that the union soon put him to work as an international organizer, in which field he served with distinction.

Then, for 10 years, Mr. Gillespie held the office of assistant president of the Teamsters Union, after which he was elected secretary-treasurer, the position he held for 8 years until his death.

His body was shipped to Boston for burial and hundreds of his friends and fellow union leaders of the old home town turned out for the funeral.

Black Market Rackets Grip Nation, Business Paper Proves In Survey

New York City.—All over the nation, "black market" racketeers are thriving as never before and making a joke out of OPA price ceilings, the "Wall Street Journal" revealed.

It summarized findings made by correspondents throughout the country. From these disclosures, the "Journal" concluded that "the black market is blazing a spectacular career."

"The fact is that evasion or outright violation of OPA regulations is nearer the rule than the exception," the paper declared. "Ceiling price enforcement is shot full of holes. Black markets in cars, trucks, housing, building materials, home furnishings, hosiery and foods are rampant from east to coast."

The business paper cited a growing practice among landlords who, while technically obeying rent ceilings, seek prospective tenants a huge price for furnishings.

In Chicago, the paper said, "it is not uncommon" for an applicant, in order to get a 3 or 4-room apartment, to pay as much as $2,500 for furnishings, worth only a fraction of the amount.

In the clothing industry around New York, the "Journal" revealed, jobbers "take invoices to show for the record, that the manufacturer got twice the 50,000 yards of cloth he actually received, and the manufacturer, anxious to stay in business, pays up and shuts up."

Automobile salesmen are engaging in one of the "biggest rackets," particularly in the nation's capital, the business paper declared. Many garagemen, it said, soak drivers for repairs at twice what the job should be worth, and then do such poor workmanship that the cars must be brought back.

Crookedness among business men, the "Journal" declared, is causing sellers to pay more than ceiling prices, are given much of the blame for the situation by the "Journal."

OPA To Spur Clothing Production But Bars General Price Boost

Washington, D. C.—OPA Administrator Chester Bowles promised vigorous government action to increase production and supply of reasonably-priced clothing now practically unobtainable in the stores.

The move was designed especially to provide more civilian clothing for returning veterans.

Bowles warned manufacturers who have engaged in a sit-down strike in the hope of forcing increases in price ceilings that the OPA will not permit price boosts as a stimulant to production.

Meanwhile, in a significant article carried in the current issue of a national weekly magazine, Bowles revealed that the "crisis in clothes" is not something that has arisen overnight. It has been long in the making.

"Mistakes" by the government itself are in large part responsible, he admitted. He blamed the situation on the failure of the War Production Board and OPA to take drastic steps early in the war to head off the crisis.

Way back then, he said, the government should have prohibited or sharply restricted production of high-priced evening dresses, other luxury apparel and costly draperies. It should have set up a tight control over the shift to high-price, high-profit lines.

Also, it should have established better controls to keep out "shoddy" garments and to have required production of necessary quantities of good lower-priced clothing. Above all, it should have started apparel rationing in the spring of 1945, he said.

"OPA certainly must carry its full share of the blame," he conceded.

"In 1942 and 1943 and through much of 1944, OPA failed to take sufficient vigorous action."

Truman Supports General Wage Hike In Challenging Message to Congress

Washington, D. C.—President Truman declared in his annual message to Congress that American business can afford and should pay "substantial" wage increases to labor.

To set industry a good example, the President urged Congress to increase the pay of government employes and to vote an immediate boost in minimum wage levels from 40 to 65 cents an hour.

The President emphasized that wage increases in private industry should be negotiated through collective bargaining. He also pressed for prompt action on full employment legislation, social security improvements, higher unemployment compensation and insurance against medical costs.

Full employment and increased production, Mr. Truman said, are the only safeguards against the disaster of inflation and consequent depression. He warned that another depression in this country would upset the entire world economy.

Deploring work stoppages, the President called upon management and labor to settle their disputes through collective bargaining. He also reiterated his request for fact-finding legislation.

"Private capital and private management," the President said in his message, "are entitled to adequate reward for efficiency, but business must recognize that its reward results from the employment of the resources of the nation.

"Business is a public trust and must adhere to national standards in the conduct of its affairs. These standards include as a minimum the establishment of fair wages and fair employment practices. "Labor also has its own new peacetime responsibilities. Under our collective bargaining system, which must become progressively more secure, labor attains increasing political as well as economic power and this, as with all power, means increased responsibility."

In endorsing a boost in the minimum wage levyl prescribed under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the President said neither serious price adjustments nor appreciable unemployment would be caused by such increases.

Continued price control and rent control were urged by the President to prevent inflation. He recommended liberalization of the whole structure of the social security laws and restated his pleas for the establishment of health insurance.

In giving his views on the need for a fair wage structure to bulwark expansion of American industry, the President said:

"Most industries and most companies have adequate leeway within which to grant substantial wage increases. If we manage our economy properly, the future will see us on a level of production half again as high as anything we have ever accomplished in peacetime. Business can in the future pay higher wages and sell for lower prices than ever before. This is not true for all companies nor will it ever be there for all, but for business generally it is true. We are slipping on all concerned to develop through collective bargaining wage structures that are fair to labor, allow for necessary business incentives and conform with policy to hold the line on prices."

Sen. O'Daniel Evicts Blind Man And Thirteen Others From Homes

Washington, D. C.—Oscar H. Smith is blind, but he manages to make a living by selling cigars and candy. He rented the room from his home in Washington to his cigar counter, so he could go back and forth alone.

Senator "Pappy" O'Daniel, Texas labor hater, has just evicted this blind and aging man from one of the 14 apartments in the 40-room Washington building O'Daniel claims he needs to house himself and his family.

Smith had to move to Arlington, a suburb across the Potomac. The route from there to his cigar stand is so long and complicated he has to hire a private car to take him back and forth.

O'Daniel also evicted the other 13 tenants in the midst of the desperate Washington housing shortage, but putting out the blind man was his choicest achievement.

"Pappy" has been subjected to so much criticism because of these evictions that he now protests he must have the building so he may set up a "free home for veterans."

Heretofore, "Pappy" has contended he needed the 14 apartments for his family.

Woll Demands Firm Stand On Russia, Warns Unions Against Politics

New York City.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll called upon the government to stop "appeasing" Soviet Russia, advised labor not to depend on government or political parties to win its battles and proposed that further labor-management conferences be held to extend the scope of "industrial cooperation, mutual trust and good-will."

In his annual message to the members of his own union, the International Photo Engravers Union, Mr. Woll recommended that the United States set forth its international policies with complete frankness and candor. He described Stalin's foreign program as "diplomatic aggression" and declared that "appeasement or peasement would be as unsuccessful as the attempt to appease Adolf Hitler at Munich.

The same prescription should apply to our relations with Iran, Spain, the Netherlands and all other foreign governments, the AFL leader said.

"Even in politics no one has yet succeeded in finding an adequate substitute for honesty," he observed.

The end of the war has dispelled the hope of some labor leaders that a "world ideal" of peace and friendship among all nations would follow the defeat of the Axis powers, Mr. Woll said.

"Many labor leaders are engaging in one of the "biggest rackets," particularly in the nation's capital, the business paper declared. Many garagemen, it said, soak drivers for repairs at twice what the job should be worth, and then do such poor workmanship that the cars must be brought back.

Crookedness among business men, the "Journal" declared, is causing sellers to pay more than ceiling prices, are given much of the blame for the situation by the "Journal."

SHEET METAL WORKERS WIN WAGE INCREASES

Chicago — Substantial wage increases, plus other improvements in working conditions, have been won for nearly 900 employes of various sheet metal plants here by Local 115 of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association.

BARS JOBLESS PAY TO VETERANS ON STRIKE

Washington, D. C.—Veterans Administrator Bradley ruled that veterans are not entitled to unemployment compensation under the GI Bill of Rights when they are deprived of work because of a strike.

AFL Council Decries Drive For Anti-Strike Measures

Text of Council Statement

Miami—Congress needs a cooling-off period right now much more urgently than labor.

At this moment our lawmakers are racing—in consideration of some 160 bills aimed at impairing or restricting the freedom of the nation's workers and the unions which represent them.

The difficulties of making an intelligent decision on these complicated and catch-as-catch-can proposals are further aggravated by the clamor and pressure for hasty action to deal with the current strike situation.

Under these circumstances, the executive council is convinced that any law Congress could pass now would only make matters worse.

Our nation is passing through a critical period of postwar readjustment. During the war our national economy was dictated and rigidly controlled by the government. Our fundamental objective now should be to return as quickly as possible to a free economy.

The great danger is that Congress, in an attempt to mitigate temporary labor-management disputes, may impose permanent government controls which would stifle freedom of enterprise for labor and for management for all time.

The executive council urged Congress to beware of throwing the American way of life into reverse gear.

Is it conceivable that Congress can pass a law regulating labor-management relations without substituting compulsory arbitration by government agencies for free collective bargaining?

The Congress attempt to establish a national wage policy without imprisoning the national economy in the chains of government wage-fixing from which we hoped to escape when the war ended?

Is it possible for a government agency to exercise controls over wage rates without concurrent government regulation of prices?

Such a price would be far too dear to pay for temporary relief from immediate troubles.

Let Congress remember its past tragic mistakes in experimenting with antilabor legislation. The War Labor Disputes Act was adopted over a presidential veto two years ago in a similar period of upset. Even the original sponsors of this legislation now conceded that instead of preventing strikes it fostered and encouraged them.

Let Congress remember that antilabor legislation is also anti-American legislation. It would punish most severely the workers and trade unions that have bargained peacefully with employers and refrained from strikes. It would not only hurt labor, but the entire nation.

Since the Norton-Ellender bill appears to be receiving first consideration in Congress, the executive council is sending the following telegram to the House Labor Committee and the Senate Education and Labor Committee summarizing the American Federation of Labor's specific objections to this measure:

"The executive council of the American Federation of Labor earnestly requests your committee to reject the Norton-Ellender bill for the following reasons:

"1—The compulsory cooling-off period provided in the bill would serve to warm up strike sentiment instead of the cooling-off period intended.

"2—The bill would revive court injunctions against labor, an evil which the Norris-LaGuardia act was adopted to abolish.

"3—It would subject workers and trade unions once more to the hated doctrine of conspiracy under which it would be illegal for two or more workers acting in concert to perform actions that are held legal for an individual worker.

"4—The government fact-finding machinery provided for in the bill would become wage-fixing agencies inimical to a free economy, as has been conclusively demonstrated by the board acting in the General Motors case.

"Your committee knows the nation best by voting against this impractical and unworkable legislation."

50,000 Contracts Can't Be Wrong— Collective Bargaining Works!

Chicago.—While collective bargaining has broken down in a few big industrial troublespots, 50,000 union agreements are functioning today and helping to keep the peace on the industrial front.

That significant point was made by Lloyd K. Garrison, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, in an address to the Chicago Association of Commerce.

"Every day approximately 100 of these contracts are being reopened and rewritten, and every day literally thousands of grievances are being settled under the terms of these existing agreements," Warren explained.

It was to be expected, he said, that after the strain of the war, long bottled up, labor-management disputes would flare up as a backwash of disputes. Actually, however, in the vast majority of cases, labor-employer differences are being settled without stoppages, he stressed.

"The wonder is not there is so much industrial strife, but that there is not more!" Warren insisted. "The wonder is not that there are interruptions to production, but that the reconversion program is proceeding."

Davis Opposes Fact-Finding Boards, Upholds Collective Bargaining

Washington, D. C.—William H. Davis, former chairman of the War Labor Board, told the Senate Committee on Education and Labor that government intervention in labor disputes is far more effective by legislation would aggravate rather than ameliorate the problem, he said.

"And, believe me, strikes don't continue indefinitely. The old lady at home will want to know before long where the next day's meals are coming from.

"Yes, you could require unions to post cash bonds not to violate contracts. But a national union with $5,000,000 in the treasury and half a million members can exhaust that sum in strike benefits in two or three weeks."

In similar blunt language, Mr. Davis indicated that he thought President Truman was off on the wrong track in advocating fact-finding boards.

"If I were in the driver's seat," he said, "I would say to you: don't legislate—let us be reasonable. I should say the heat of these controversies.

"We are faced with an inevitable post-war situation. It is something that no irresistible force meeting an immovable object, so far as anything is concerned that the government can do."

He advocated larger salaries and wages, even for the United States Conciliation Service.

This fellow, most of its members getting "more than $4,200 a year, had done wonders in getting capital and labor to settle their disputes, he said.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY HIT HARDEST BY CUTBACKS

Washington, D. C.—Hardest-hit of the industries which skyrocketed during the war is that of aircraft, the Surplus Property Administration revealed.

Why Companies Provoke Strikes— Tax Refunds Will Pay Losses

Washington, D. C.—One of the frankest admissions so far made that employers are using tax "savings" to finance a war against labor has come from a big textile plant in Union Point, Ga.

It is owned by Textile Union Manufacturing Company and union workers have gone on strike because the management refuses to put into effect National War Labor Board orders.

In response, the company, in a circular distributed to employes, brazenly boasted that it will lose nothing from the walkout.

"Any losses we sustain in 1946 will be made up to us by the government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945," the circular declared.

What the company referred to was that, under the "carry-back" provisions of the tax laws, passed by Congress to facilitate reconversion, it will be entitled to rebates from Uncle Sam, which will be sufficient to take care of any losses it may sustain in the next two years.

"THE AFL PRESENTS . . ." "AMERICA UNITED" At 1:15 P.M., EWT, Over NBC

Date	Topic	Panel Members
Jan. 27	America's Housing Emergency	Boris Shishkin, AFL Wilson Wyatt, Housing Expediter F. S. Fitzpatrick, U. S. Chamber of Commerce
Feb. 3	Need for Health Insurance	Nelson Cruikshank, AFL Senator Pepper, of Florida Russell Smith, National Farmers Union
Feb. 10	Long-Range Home Plans	Boris Shishkin, AFL Senator Wagner, of New York Roswell Magill, National Farmers Union

JOHN LOCHER, CLU HEAD FOR MANY YEARS, DIES

Washington, D. C.—John Locher, 61, who rose from the ranks of Iron Workers Local No. 5 (AFL) to become one of Washington's outstanding labor leaders, died January 19.

Mr. Locher had been president of the Central Labor Union and secretary of the Building Trades Council for the past 12 years.